



Germany: Facts & Figures February 2007

A monthly overview of current opinion data and statistical information in the Federal Republic of Germany

Politics

If Bundestag elections had been held on February 25, 2007, the CDU/CSU would have received 34% of the vote, the SPD 26%, the Green Party 12%, the FDP 12%, the PDS (with WASG) 10%, and all other parties combined 6%. (Forsa. 02/23/07)

Economy

The unemployment rate declined to 10.1% in February, down from 10.2% in January. A total of 4.2 million people were out of work. (Federal Employment Agency. Major papers, 28/02/07)

Inflation stayed at a moderate annual rate of 1.6%, despite the 3% VAT increase, the Federal Statistical Office said. (Federal Statistical Office. Major papers, 02/28/07)

The budget deficit in 2006 fell to 1.7% of the GDP. The deficit is 39.5 billion euros, about seven billion euros lower than estimated. (Federal Statistical Agency. Major papers, 02/23/07)

The tax yield for the government increased to 16 billion euros in January, up 24.3% compared to the figures from January 2006. The Inland Revenue was 2.1 billion euros higher than expected. (FAZ. 02/15/07)

The German economy grew by 2.7% last year, with fourth quarter growth coming in well above expectations. GDP grew by 0.9% in the past three months of 2006 over the previous quarter. Growth was helped by strong exports, higher domestic investment and an increase in private consumption. (Federal Statistical Office. Major papers, 02/14/07)

German exports rose by nearly 14% in 2006. Exported goods were worth 893.6 billion euros. Imports rose by 16.5% to 731.7 billion. Germany's trade surplus increased slightly to 161.9 billion in 2006, up from 158.2 billion in 2005. (Federal Statistical Office. Major papers, 02/09/07)

German companies are increasingly complaining about the UN sanctions on Iran. 30% of German companies with business relations with Iran have experienced a deterioration of their business relations, while 30% believe the export restrictions will have long-term negative effects. 40% reported difficulties in financing business deals with Iran. (German Chamber of Commerce and Trade. 02/09/07)

Society

Use of the internet in Germany has further increased. 65% of those more than ten years of age used the internet in the first quarter of 2006, up from 61% in the first quarter of 2005. 56% of internet users went online every day or almost every day in the first quarter of 2006, up from 50% a year earlier. (Federal Statistical Office. 02/27/07)

9.4 million students attend schools of general education in Germany in the current school year 2006/07, a decrease of 1.6% from the previous school year. It is the lowest number of pupils in schools of general education since 1992. In the new Länder (including Berlin), the number of pupils decreased by 5.1%, thus continuing the trend observed since 1995/96. In former West-Germany, the number of students declined by 0.9%, the second year in a row the number declined. Further decreases are expected here until the year 2020, whereas slightly rising numbers of pupils are expected for the eastern part of Germany after 2009. (Federal Statistical Office. 02/26/07)

Adults surveyed in five European countries have mixed opinions when asked if they would consider working in another European Union (EU) country: 54% of Italian respondents stated that they would, followed by Germans (49%) and Britons (45%), Spaniards (36%) and the French (23%). British (47%) and German (45%) adults are most likely among the countries to feel negative about migrant workers within the EU. Conversely, 42% of Spanish believe that migration within the EU has had a positive impact. Britons (76%) and Spanish (71%) are the countries most likely to favor tighter border controls. German and French adults are more likely to say that the border controls are sufficient (32% and 31% respectively). Britons are the most likely to state that there are too many foreigners in their country (66%), followed by the Spanish (62%) and Italians (61%). The French are proportionately more likely to state there is about the right number of foreigners in their country (37%), followed by Germany (29%). (FT/Harris Poll. 02/19/07)

A record 80,000 people were imprisoned in Germany last year, up from 63,500 prisoners in 2005. The reason for the increase is a rise in violent crimes which results in longer prison sentences. (Major papers, 02/16/07)

60% of Germans advocate a speed limit on highways to help reduce carbon dioxide emissions. 39% reject a speed limit. (Spiegel Online. 02/12/07)